

Washington - Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, who is expected to become the Speaker of the House of Representatives when the 110th Congress begins in January, today nominated Congresswoman Linda Sánchez to serve on an influential Congressional committee that directly affects individuals in the workforce, retirees and students.

The Education and Workforce Committee has broad jurisdiction over education and labor issues. More specifically, the committee's agenda in 2007 will include improving high quality public schools by revising the "No Child Left Behind Act"; passing the first increase to the national minimum wage in a decade; solving the nation's retirement security crisis by protecting pensions for current and future retirees; and increasing student financial aid to increase access to college.

"I am honored and humbled that Speaker-designate Pelosi would trust me with the role to work on some of our country's highest priorities," said Congresswoman Sánchez. "I have worked hard in Congress to make progress on issues including school safety and worker protections, and this new committee assignment will allow me to do even more."

Speaker-designate Pelosi included the nomination with a small list of new committee assignments that must be voted on by the entire Democratic caucus.

"With the intellect and integrity of this diverse group of Members, House Democrats will lead our country in a New Direction that will turn the American Dream into reality for all, not just the privileged few," said Speaker-Designate Pelosi in a statement. "They are ready to govern and address the real priorities of the American people."

Congresswoman Sánchez, with a seat on the committee of jurisdiction over worker protections, will also be able to increase her vocal leadership for promoting a fair trade policy.

"Trade is important and necessary for U.S. workers," said Congresswoman Sánchez. "After a decade of catastrophic trade policy under the failed NAFTA model, we need to scrap NAFTA clones and create a trade policy that benefits working families here at home and across the world."